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ABSTRACT

This report presents the findings of surveys conducted in Arkansas to diagnose children's day care needs as directed by parents in the community. Representative samples of approximately 100 parents of preschool children in each of three communities (Fort Smith, Hot Springs, and Texarkana) were interviewed as to the kinds of child care arrangements they were using, their reactions to these arrangements, and their preferences for types of arrangements when given a choice. Overall, the surveys show that parents are concerned about child care but must take what is available. Survey requirements, sample survey forms, and instructions given to volunteer interviewers are included along with data from each community. (ED)

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PS

DIFFERENTIAL DAY CARE PLACEMENT PROJECT

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

FROM

FEDERAL PROGRAMS DIVISION
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PS 008528

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DIFFERENTIAL DAY CARE PLACEMENT PROJECT

Final Report

The summer project of the Differential Day Care Placement Program was conducted according to the workplan.

This special project was a continuation of the original objectives and goals. Information and data that was obtained during the fiscal year 1974-1975 indicated a need for a diagnosis of children's needs as dictated by parents in the community. Prior to the start of the project, meetings and workshops were held to decide the kind of information we wanted and ways to get the data.

Three (3) DDCP centers participated in the survey; Fort Smith, Hot Springs, and Texarkana. Along with the special project the placement of children was continued.

The questionnaire was designed by the state office in cooperation with the three (3) participating project directors. Valid interviews of approximately one hundred (100) parents of pre-school children were to be interviewed in each community. These parents were to represent a cross-section of each community including a percentage of surveys based on race, income, and geographical location. (See attachment of survey requirements)

The questionnaires were then to be compiled on a single form showing a community profile.

The information obtained in the survey was then presented in each community in an open meeting to interested observers.

It was hoped that the community meeting would foster an awareness of the needs of pre-schoolers in the three communities. The acceptance by community response at each meeting was good. Each community expressed concern for a more defined structure for pre-school-aged children. However, quality day care for the majority is becoming increasingly cost prohibitive because of the nation's economic condition.

It is felt, however, that day care providers and government will be forced to become more responsive in the area of pre-schoolers because the job market is being increased by working mothers.

Although our surveys show that many small children are being kept in private homes by neighbors, friends and/or relatives, there is still a significant number of families who chose public day care facilities.

It is felt that these parents will demand the kind of services that they feel their children need and deserve.

The overall survey shows that although parents are in deed concerned about child care they must take what is available. However, as more mothers are forced into the job market, pressures for increased kinds of care will be emphasized.

The State Office of Early Childhood Planning feels very secure in the fact that an awareness of good child care was fostered during its years existence. At least parents in the communities served will know what to expect from good child care services.

The four (4) DDCP centers have expressed plans to continue the placement services based on available funds. All expressed that the first year's usage warranted its continuance.

SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

1. Selection of Sample:

   A. Minority sample should represent roughly the same percentage as general population of county does.

      1. Sebastian 12% minority
      2. Garland 12% minority
      3. Miller 25% minority

   B. Low-income sample should represent same percentage as general population of county does.

   C. Geographical distribution should be included in sample so that all parts of the community are represented.

   D. Only parents of preschool children will be interviewed.

   E. At least 100 parents will be interviewed, representing 100 families.

2. Securing the Sample:

   A. Volunteers should be trained to conduct the survey by early June. College early childhood or sociology classes are a good source of potential volunteers if an agreement can be worked out with the faculty member teaching the course.

   B. It will be necessary to make personal contact with each person interviewed in order to collect the information. Volunteers should receive training in where to go and how to ask for the information.

   C. Interviews can be done in groups. Suggested spots for catching groups of preschool parents in various parts of town would be Sunday School classes (to be arranged for through ministers or class members), plants or industry where mothers work (arranged for through plant manager), schools and hospitals, local colleges, offices and day care centers.

   D. Forms may be filled out either by parents, or by interviewer, except for second page which should be filled out by parent.

3. Developing the Report:

   A. A master form for developing a community profile will be designed. This profile will be the composite information obtained from the community survey. Copies of this should be made available at the community workshop in August.

   B. The profile and a narrative report describing where the samples were taken, by whom and any additional pertinent information not included in the profile should be included. The needs identified should be compared with the availability of child care as determined by the earlier DDCP survey of child care to determine what still is not available in the community. This report should also be presented at the workshop.

   C. The final report should be in the Department of Education by August 30, 1975.

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Survey Form

Interviewer's Explanation: I'm working on a survey of how parents feel about day care which is available in _____ (name of community). This survey is part of a research project being conducted by the Differential Day Care Placement Project sponsored by _____ (name of community agency). We're interested in getting a few questions answered. If there are any that you would rather not answer, we can simply skip them. This will only take about 10 minutes of your time. Would you be willing to participate? The information that we gather will be put with that collected from two other communities, _____ and _____, for a state profile of what the day care needs of children in Arkansas are.

Interview

1. Do you have children who are five years old or younger? ___yes ___no

Boy or Girl	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Do both parents live at home? ___yes ___no

3. Do both parents work away from home? ___yes ___no

	Place of Employment	Type of Position
Mother	_____	_____
Father	_____	_____

4. Does your child/children attend a day care center or does he stay with someone other than his parents on a regular basis? ___yes ___no

   A. What is the arrangement?

      Day Care Center _____ (name)

      Family Day Home _____ (name)

      With Relative: At child's home ___ At relative's home ___

      _____ (relation to child)

      Other child care giver: _____(at home) _____(away from home)

   B. What is the cost per week per child? _____

   C. How far from your home is the child care facility? _____

   D. Is transportation provided by center? ___yes ___no
      by other? (specify) _____

   E. Hours child/children stay in center. From _____a.m. to _____p.m.

   F. When you need part-time child care, what arrangements are made? (check appropriate places)

	In Own Home	In Other Home
Baby sitter	____	____
Housekeeper	____	____
Relative	____	____

      Family Day Home ____ Day Care Center ___

      Comments: _____

      _____

      _____

5. If your child stays in a center or home, have you spent time visiting in the facility where your child stays? ___yes ___no

6. Are you satisfied with your child care arrangements? ___yes ___no
   (f answer is "no" please comment) _____

   _____

   _____

7. Would you prefer to have another type of child care available? __yes __no
(specify if answer is "yes") _____

_____

_____

Name of person interviewed (if given) _____

Address: _____

Race: _____

Interviewed by: _____

(To be filled out by parent)

1. In choosing child care arrangements, I am most concerned with, check according to concern:

	Very Important	Important	Least Important
Cost	____	____	____
Playmates	____	____	____
Nearness to home	____	____	____
Type of people at center	____	____	____
Food	____	____	____
No waiting list	____	____	____
Parents need time away from child	____	____	____
Child's happiness	____	____	____
Safe facility	____	____	____
Atmosphere at center	____	____	____
Child getting along with others	____	____	____
Hours facility is open	____	____	____
Ages accepted	____	____	____
Educational instruction	____	____	____

2. Please complete the following sentences:

   A. My child care needs are _____
   _____
   _____

   B. I would like my child to receive the kind of care that would consist of _____
   _____
   _____

   C. Do you find a placement service for children helpful to you? yes___ no___

Volunteers Information

I. Selection of Sample

A. Minority (use precentage applicable to county)
   1. Garland 12 minority interviews
   2. Miller 25 minority interviews
   3. Sebastian 12 minority interviews

(Choose minority samples with geographical location and income spread)

B. Low-income sample should be representative of the general population.

C. Geographical sampling should represent all parts of the community.

D. Only parents of preschool children will be interviewed.

E. One hundred (100) families will be interviewed for the survey.

II. Securing the Sample

A. Personal contact with parents will be necessary to collect the the information needed.

B. Interviews can be done in groups in such places as:
   1. Sunday School classes in different areas
   2. Plants or industries
   3. Schools
   4. Hospitals
   5. Local colleges
   6. Offices
   7. Day Care Centers

(Be sure to arrange all group interviews through the person in charge. /e.g., the minister, personnel manager and etc./)

III. Completing the Survey Forms

A. The first two pages of the survey can be filled in by the interviewer.

B. The third page should be completed by the parent.

C. Explain to each person to be interviewed what you are doing and why.
   1. Be sure the interviewer is agreeable to being included in the survey.
   2. Get the interviewer's name and address only if he/she is willing to give it. It is not important to the survey other than to validate the interview, which you may explain.
   3. You may interview either the mother or father but no more than on parent for each family.

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Federal Programs Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

COMMUNITY PROFILE FOR: _____

CONDUCTED BY: _____
Agency

BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH 100 PARENTS

1. A. Types of child care arrangements which children of interviewed parents attend:

	Number of Children
Day care center	_____
Family day home	_____
With relative (at child's home)	_____
With relative (at relative's home)	_____

Total surveyed: _____

B. Average cost per week: $ _____

Cost range: From $_____ to $_____

C. Average distance from home of child care facility: _____ miles

District range: From _____ miles to _____ miles

D. Transportation:

	Number of Children
Provided by center:	_____
By parent:	_____
By relative:	_____
By carpool:	_____
Other (specify)	_____

Total surveyed: _____

E. Average number of hours children stay in center: _____ hours

Range: From _____ hours to _____ hours

Average opening time: _____ Average closing time: _____

Earliest opening time: _____ Latest closing time: _____

F. Part-time arrangements made for child care:

	In Own Home	In Other Home
Baby sitter	_____	_____
Housekeeper	_____	_____
Relative	_____	_____

Family Day Home _____

Day Care Center _____

Total surveyed: _____

Parents Surveyed

2. Parents who have spent time visiting the facility where child stays: _____

Out of total surveyed: _____

3. Parents who are satisfied with child care arrangements: _____

Out of total surveyed: _____

4. Parents who would like other types of child care arrangements: _____

Out of total surveyed: _____

Comments on part-time care:

Comments on spending time in facility:

Comments on satisfaction with present arrangements:

1. Reasons for choosing child care arrangements:

Total surveyed: _____

	Number of Parents Responding		
	Very Important	Important	Least Important
Cost	____	____	____
Nearness to home	____	____	____
Playmates	____	____	____
Type of people at center	____	____	____
Food	____	____	____
No waiting list	____	____	____
Parents need time away from child	____	____	____
Child's happiness	____	____	____
Safe facility	____	____	____
Atmosphere at center	____	____	____
Child getting along with others	____	____	____
Hours facility is open	____	____	____
Ages accepted	____	____	____
Educational instruction	____	____	____

2. A. Summary of child care needs as indicated by parents:

B. Summary of kind of care parents want for their children:

C. Is placement service helpful? Number surveyed: _____

Number responding positively: _____

Number responding negatively: _____

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Federal Programs Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

COMMUNITY PROFILE FOR: Texarkana

CONDUCTED BY: 4-C Council
Agency

BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH 100 PARENTS

1. A. Types of child care arrangements which children of interviewed parents attend:

	Number of Children
Day care center	26
Family day home	12
With relative (at child's home) [not parents]	9
With relative (at relative's home)	23

Total surveyed: 95 families

B. Average cost per week: $ 15.89 [not including paid relatives]

Cost range: From $ 0.00 to $ 35.00 [15.00 most frequent]

C. Average distance from home of child care facility: 1.77 miles

District range: From 1 block miles to 18 miles

D. Transportation:

	Number of Children
Provided by center:	6
By parent:	55
By relative:	
By carpool:	
Other (specify)	

Total surveyed: 61

E. Average number of hours children stay in center: 8.6 hours

Range: From 3 hours to 12 hours

Average opening time: 7 AM Average closing time: 6 PM

Earliest opening time: 6 AM Latest closing time: 12 midnight

F. Part-time arrangements made for child care:

	In Own Home	In Other Home
Baby sitter	21	20
Housekeeper	1	1
Relative	19	24
Family Day Home	1	
Day Care Center		
Total surveyed:	95	

	Parents Surveyed	
2. Parents who have spent time visiting the facility where child stays:	44	
Out of total surveyed:		65
3. Parents who are satisfied with child care arrangements:	61	
Out of total surveyed:		66
4. Parents who would like other types of child care arrangements:	19	
Out of total surveyed:		75

Comments on part-time care:

Comments on spending time in facility:

Comments on satisfaction with present arrangements:

"It's the best I can do right now"

"They need to be around other children their own ages and to be where they can learn more"

(Both by mothers dissatisfied with relatives' care)

1. Reasons for choosing child care arrangements:

Total surveyed: 61

	Number of Parents Responding		
	Very Important	Important	Least Important
Cost	39	17	5
Nearness to home	22	37	2
Playmates	13	45	3
Type of people at center	22	39	0
Food	18	42	1
No waiting list	3	15	43
Parents need time away from child	4	17	40
Child's happiness	16	40	5
Safe facility	29	31	1
Atmosphere at center	12	48	1
Child getting along with others	21	37	3
Hours facility is open	24	35	2
Ages accepted	18	39	4
Educational instruction	26	34	1

2. A. Summary of child care needs as indicated by parents:

Dependable care they can have confidence in

B. Summary of kind of care parents want for their children:

Home-style care - safe, healthy, with love and supervision, and contact with other children their age

C. Is placement service helpful? Number surveyed: 57

Number responding positively: 8

Number responding negatively: 49

COMMENTS BY PARENTS

NEEDS: My child care needs are:

a closer location
every day (4 responses)
those that are essential to the children (several responses)
everything
very limited
once a week
two or three times a week
being met well
safe competent loving care in a pleasant clean happy atmosphere that is stimulating to learning advancement
the right kinds of food, a safe place
just like I want them
good but they could be better
to be fed properly, to be happy and satisfied with the environment, to like the people that take care of him and see to his needs when in their care
balanced meals and a lot of care & love
what every child needs
the best for my child's happiness and care
a place that will supervise activities and make sure they fet what exercise and rest they need while I'm at work
balanced meals and rest and lots of fun
someone who will care
the best I can give
I don't know

KIND OF CARE: I would like my child to receive the kind of care that would consist of:

the same as if he were at home, care like I would give, close to home life (over 15 responses)
someone who likes kids
a nice place where he can have fun
love and discipline (over 8 responses)
everything that is essential (several responses)
all of the things above (referring to the checklist)
helping my child grow in a well adjusted manner that satisfies both physical and emotional needs
night care
someone who takes care of children because they like to and not because they need the money
love, protection, instruction (educational & social), playmates his own age, and happiness with the surroundings
a person I can trust my child with
safe facilities, good food, and lots of nice children his age to play with
a happy place, safely supervised
a good atmosphere with educational instruction
someone who is very sweet to children
emotional and physical maturity
the same as anyone else

REPORT

to

DIFFERENTIAL DAY CARE PLACEMENT PROJECT

from

FORT SMITH VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

September 10, 1975

Report to
Differential Day Care Placement Project

From
Fort Smith Voluntary Action Center
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Subject
Differential Day Care Placement Project
100 Family Survey
Resulting Community Profile

September 10, 1975

102 families were interviewed to compile the community profile reflecting parental attitudes toward day care. The sample selection followed the guidelines set by the Placement Project.

There were twelve minority families interviewed. Income spread was from teacher, U. S. Army, office worker to mechanic and factory worker. The geographical spread was as wide as could be in this particular community where there is only a minority population of six percent.

The general population surveyed covered income levels from those of professional persons to those receiving Social Service assistance. The geographical area covered included all residential sections of Fort Smith. Only parents of pre-school children were interviewed.

The interviews were done by volunteers. These included Board members of the Voluntary Action Center, college students, day care center operators, and a survey team who did a random sampling on a Saturday at a shopping mall.

FINDINGS

In a great majority of cases parents who did not have children in day care situations were really not interested in answering the questions. They seemed to feel that it just did not concern them, and why bother. We did try in all cases to explain that this was to cover varying situations, and their attitudes were what we were interested in. Of the 102 survey forms included in this report sixty one were completed by parents with children in some form of day care and forty one by parents whose children were not entered in any regular day care program.

I feel the survey fell short of gathering the information we were seeking. This may indicate a fault in the questions asked, or it may indicate that what is considered important information to day care planners and operators - and educators - is not really important to the parent. Two unrelated factors may have affected the survey. First, it was done during the summer months and day care needs closely parallel the school year. With older children at home, mothers on vacation, etc. day care needs don't seem so pressing.

I think had it been done in the early fall more actual needs might have been uncovered. Complacency might have faded in the face of necessity. Secondly, the actual make-up of the community itself had to be a factor in the results. The minority population is a smaller percentage of total population than anywhere else in the state. The employment rate presently is high, and there seems to be little in the way of serious unsettling problems communitywise. In this fairly prosperous, peaceful setting you find a closer knit family and neighborhood and consequently less need for outside day care.

Before the survey was begun we had thought that lack of transportation and lack of night facilities would figure strongly. This was found not true. Both facts were mentioned, but not often enough to really be considered a factor. Had the survey been taken a month later I am sure the fact that day care would no longer be subsidized by Social Services would have come through as very important.

Where the survey asks for comments on part time care, satisfaction with arrangements, etc. the answers given were very general. I think the questions themselves were too general to elicit anything else. (In speaking of this as a possible shortcoming of the survey form I will add that I was at the conference when the survey was formulated, and any errors in the questions were certainly as much my responsibility as anyones). I do not know how they could have been phrased to have brought out any different type of response. There were no comments whatsoever on "spending time in the facility" - just answers. "Satisfaction with present arrangements" is another that the answers may be more significant than we realize. Parents were overwhelmingly satisfied with present arrangements. Does this mean they really are? Or does it simply mean that they lack the knowledge that there might be something different available, or the wish to make the effort to try to find it.

Day care home care here does not seem as widely used as in some other areas. I do not know why. Certainly there are adequate ones available. And the Day Care licensing agent has an up to date listing.

Page 3 of the form, as filled in by the parent, shows reasons for choosing child care arrangements. The pattern that emerges does not seem to show any obvious differences between the attitudes of parents with children in day care and those whose children are not. As we tabulated the surveys, one figure seemed worthy of note - COST - So many of those who considered it least important were low income families. This raised the question of whether it was really least important to them or were they answering according to a wish for a different status? Another reason, "Parents need time away from child" seemed very thought provoking to most and confusing to some. I feel here too that some parents answered the question in the way they thought would be the most socially acceptable. However, the answers to some questions were very definitely the expression of the parent's true feeling. One parent, scoring "educational instruction", said she most certainly was not worried about educational instruction for her three year old.

The child's needs as indicated by parents were really not the needs of the children, except as the needs of the child and parent are so closely related. Somewhere the survey form did not ask the question to elicit the information desired. Geographical location, hours open, expense, are all parental needs - not children's. Somewhere in this area there have to be children who have special physical needs, who have emotional needs, who have learning needs. This survey did not uncover them. In each of the three cases where a specific need was mentioned it was being met. The needs of the children and the kind of care parents want for their children both seemed to be answered on a very general level. The answers to the question as to the kind of care parents want for their children were so general as to be almost laughable - unless in fact they are an indication that really ALL parents want ALL things good for ALL their children. Several did mention discipline and christian guidance as desired specifics.

One of the Day Care Center operators here thought 100 surveys were not really a wide enough spread for significant findings for his information. He ran off some duplicate copies of the form and a volunteer team took them to the shopping mall on Saturday. Random parents were interviewed during the morning. The team simply approached any adult walking by with a child who looked to be under five. Almost all asked did fill in the survey form. This only amounted to forty additional surveys though. It took longer for each individual survey than we had thought it would. And we found that after noon the small children were no longer in the mall. I presume nap time and such. One difference that showed in the community profile that is readily explainable is the average cost per week. In the survey of 140 it shows the average cost of $15.35. I had thought this was high, but the people who are engaged in child care here did not think so. On the survey of 102 the figure dropped to $13.87. This is because several children were added to the 102 survey who attended Inter-Faith at no cost. Also in the official profile I decided that the children who are attending day care at the expense of Social Services really belong in the no cost category as far as parents are concerned. Since this profile was developed by the parent's answers I thought the average would have to be reached by carrying these children as of no cost. I did not see any other significant difference in the profiles developed.

At the conclusion of the survey a community meeting was announced. Notices were mailed to all day care center operators and to a list of people we felt were interested in child care. Also an invitation was extended through the newspaper and television to the general public. The Fort Smith Child Development Council also took part in the meeting. Sixteen people attended. Day care center operators, Mental Health Director, a representative from the Juvenile Probation Office, a representative from the local newspaper, one special education teacher, a P.T.A. representative, representatives from Social Services, and several parents. The community profile was presented and discussed. The slide

show about selecting day care was shown, and favorably received. The P.T.A. representative has asked that it be shown to P.T.A. groups here. Although our office's connection with the Differential Day Care Placement Service has ended we will continue to maintain the information files. They are kept updated and the information is available to anyone who wishes it. We are also at the present investigating the possibility of implementing a SCAN program in Fort Smith.

Copies of the Community Profile have been mailed to all day care center operators in Fort Smith.

Dorothy C. Rucker, Director
Fort Smith Voluntary Action Center

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Federal Programs Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

COMMUNITY PROFILE FOR: Fort Smith, Arkansas

CONDUCTED BY: Voluntary Action Center
Agency

BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH 100 PARENTS

1. A. Types of child care arrangements which children of interviewed parents attend:

	Number of Children
Day care center	43
Family day home Includes sitters	18
With relative (at child's home)	3
With relative (at relative's home)	7
Total surveyed: 102 Sitters at home	5
	76

B. Average cost per week: $ 13.87

Cost range: From $ 0 to $ 25.00

C. Average distance from home of child care facility: 4.25 miles

District range: From 0 miles to 30 miles

D. Transportation:

	Number of Children
Provided by center:	6
By parent:	
By relative:	
By carpool:	
Other (specify)	

Total surveyed: 102

This question received very few answers. Because of local lack of public transportation parents apparently assumed that if center did not provide transportation - we knew they did.

E. Average number of hours children stay in center: 7½ hours

Range: From 2½ hours to 12 hours

* Average opening time: 6:15 AM Average closing time: 6:00 PM

Earliest opening time: 6:00 AM Latest closing time: 7:00 PM

F. Part-time arrangements made for child care:

	In Own Home	In Other Home
Baby sitter	35	15
Housekeeper	4	
Relative	31	35
Family Day Home		
Day Care Center	3	
Total surveyed:	102	

	Parents Surveyed	
2. Parents who have spent time visiting the facility where child stays:	102	
Out of total surveyed:		64
3. Parents who are satisfied with child care arrangements:	102	
Out of total surveyed:		76
4. Parents who would like other types of child care arrangements:	102	
Out of total surveyed:		20

Comments on part-time care: There is a need for a place where children could be left when the unexpected happened - or in any emergency.
Need for child care center in shopping center.
Need for center open evenings and weekends.

Comments on spending time in facility: There were no comments - of the 61 survey forms showing children in Day Care. Fifty parents had spent time in the facility, one had not, and ten did not answer.

Comments on satisfaction with present arrangements: Overwhelmingly satisfied. Of 102 survey forms 77 satisfied, 5 not satisfied, 20 no answer. Dissatisfactions stem primarily not from child's needs but from parental needs such as expense, distance from home, lack of convenience. Several would like reliable child care in own home.

1. Reasons for choosing child care arrangements:

Total surveyed: 102

	Number of Parents Responding		
	Very Important	Important	Least Important
Cost	26	60	20
Nearness to home	43	51	7
Playmates	35	42	23
Type of people at center	91	9	1
Food	73	28	2
No waiting list	14	40	45
Parents need time away from child	27	30	40
Child's happiness	100	2	0
Safe facility	99	3	0
Atmosphere at center	93	8	0
Child getting along with others	73	26	1
Hours facility is open	31	50	17
Ages accepted	34	43	21
Educational instruction	76	20	4

2. A. Summary of child care needs as indicated by parents:

The needs revealed by this survey are parental needs - not children's. The survey revealed one sickle cell child - in a satisfactory situation, one need for speech help in satisfactory center, one handicapped in excellent center. No actual needs for specialized care listed.

B. Summary of kind of care parents want for their children: Basic - The parents list such as individual attention and good nutrition, discipline - all the normal things all good parents want for their children. There were no extraordinary kinds of care listed as being wanted.

C. Is placement service helpful?

Number surveyed:	102
Number responding positively:	51
Number responding negatively:	26
No Answer	25

*To reach average for opening and closing times we excluded Westark Child Development Center - Their hours are from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and Inter-Faith Community Center with two sessions 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. If these hours were included in the average it showed a distorted picture.

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Federal Programs Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

COMMUNITY PROFILE FOR: Fort Smith

CONDUCTED BY: Voluntary Action Center
Agency

BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH 140 (100) PARENTS

1. A. Types of child care arrangements which children of interviewed parents attend:

	Number of Children
Day care center	44
Family day home	7
With relative (at child's home)	7
With relative (at relative's home)	13
Other	8

Total surveyed: 140

B. Average cost per week: $ $15.35

Cost range: From $ 0 to $ 25.00

C. Average distance from home of child care facility: 6.2 miles

District range: From 1 Block miles to 36 miles

D. Transportation:

	Number of Children
Provided by center:	1
By parent:	
By relative:	
By carpool:	
Other (specify)	0

Total surveyed:

This question was almost unanimously ignored.

E. Average number of hours children stay in center: 7½ hours

Range: From 2½ hours to 12 hours

Average opening time: 6:00 AM Average closing time: 6:00 P.M.

Earliest opening time: ? Latest closing time: 7:00 P.M.

F. Part-time arrangements made for child care:

	In Own Home	In Other Home
Baby sitter	43	14
Housekeeper	4	
Relative	39	55
Family Day Home	1	
Day Care Center	5	
Total surveyed:	140	

	Out of total surveyed:	Parents Surveyed
2. Parents who have spent time visiting the facility where child stays:	51	140
3. Parents who are satisfied with child care arrangements:	73	140
4. Parents who would like other types of child care arrangements:	14	140

Comments on part-time care: There is a need for a place where children could be left when the unexpected happened - or in any emergency. Need for child care center in shopping center. Need for center open evenings and weekends.

Comments on spending time in facility: This question apparently was not considered very important. It was not answered in many instances. Of 79 survey forms showing children entered in day care there were only 51 replies...Mostly simply saying yes.

Comments on satisfaction with present arrangements: Out of 140 surveyed 73 are satisfied with child care arrangements. Fourteen for various reasons would like other type of arrangements. Of the fourteen some reasons were expense, lack of satisfaction with person providing care, lack of convenience. Would like reliable child care in own home.

OUACHITA REGIONAL COUNSELING
& MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
P. O. Box 1106 • 124 Rugg Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901 • Phone: 624-7111

Donald G. Martin, Ed. D.
Executive Director

Differential Day Care Placement Project
Federal Programs Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas

This center is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

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Summary of Community Profile
for
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Conducted by: Ouachita Regional Counseling
and Mental Health Center

As per agreement with the Office of Early Childhood Planning, this Center conducted a survey to assess day care needs for this community. Our plans were to do face to face interviews with 100 families drawn from a geographical as well as economical cross-sections.

The Co-ordinator of this project presented a comprehensive orientation to an enthusiastic and cheerful volunteer group. Factories, hospitals and businesses were all contacted beforehand. Unfortunately, the lack of cooperation was disheartening. Factories and most businesses refused to let us in--some said "no" more nicely than others. A total of 88 families were surveyed and a variety of resultative interpretations were drawn.

Businesses surveyed included Weyerhauser, U.S. Forest Service, accounting firms, Brandon Furniture, Hot Springs Credit Bureau, Southern Bell Telephone Office, Wilson Lumber Company. Agencies and other institutions included Public Health, Social Services, SCAN, doctors' clinics, pharmacists, St. Joseph Hospital, Ouachita Hospital, Garland County Community College and some day care centers.

Needs not being met are the absence of licensed child care for the swing-shift hours. No care is being provided for hours 3 P.M. to 11 P.M. or 11 P.M. to 7 A.M. Parents needing this coverage depend wholly on less suitable relatives or on private sitters.

This center is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Infant care is very limited. There are simply not enough slots to fill the existing need. Again, parents turn to private individuals to keep their infants at usually a much higher cost than licensed centers charge.

Transportation problems prevent many seeking licensed day care facilities from using them. This is particularly the case in a one car family whose residence is located up to twelve miles from the nearest center.

Fees charged ranged from a low of $15.00 per week (5 days) to $25.00. With many single parent situations having two or more children, this is indeed a hardship. It may be noted as a commentary on the social ills of our present day society, that a family of pride and willingness to work is literally forced to ask for welfare aid <u>just</u> to afford day care for their children.

It was interesting to note that reasons given for choosing day care facilities ranged from: "must have good educational instruction; must be a safe and cheerful facility" to "I don't care what it's like as long as they'll take my kid"! Which points up another issue --that was how interested parents are in where their child is placed daily. Too many responses showed little active caring about what goes on inside the centers or family day homes. Too many parents admitted they spent little or no time at these facilities -- saying they were always too rushed to do more than drop their child and then pick him up.

From the responders who showed interest, more discipline, better educational materials, personality development, cleaner, safer, more and better supervision were requested.

In family day homes, a more <u>varied</u> program was requested. Better nutritional needs served was noted as a frequent comment. Many parents who were aware of the content within their centers saw the need for closer supervision, and better qualified personnel. A recurring comment was: "teach my child, don't just babysit him."

"Teach my child to share and care" was an often noted response.

The results of this survey were shared with a large group of parents, and day care center operators as well as family day home operators at a night meeting on September 11, 1975, at St. Michael's auditorium in Hot Springs. The slide presentation and narrative presentation prepared by the Office of Early Childhood Planning was shown at this time and the entire program was well received.

It would be my suggestion that for further educational purposes, this slide presentation could be shown over the state to parent groups who need to be made aware of what a really good day care center should be.

Submitted by Project Coordinator

Cece Kass

Ms. Cece Kass, Social Worker,

(formerly Director of the
Differential Day Care Placement
Referral Service)

CK:zk